



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
"Creating Community Through People, Parks and Programs"

Russ Guiney, Director

April 2, 2007

TO: Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky
Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Don Knabe
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

FROM: Russ Guiney
Director

SUBJECT: **OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLE PARK PUBLIC PROCESS FACILITATION**

The Department of Parks and Recreation recently initiated the Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) Public Process Facilitation project. The purpose of this project is to build consensus among stakeholders and community members, on a series of siting criteria for a possible system, of OHV parks in Los Angeles County. The siting criteria will serve as a framework for future efforts, where potential sites may be identified and evaluated.

The demand for OHV recreational opportunities continues to increase in step with regional population growth. Funding for OHV recreational opportunities is generated by the State of California's mandatory OHV "green sticker" registration program. The Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation (OHMVR) Division of California State Parks and Recreation estimates that 14 to 15 percent of the State's population are OHV enthusiasts, and that the interest in OHV recreation is expanding. Land development and conservation management has constricted the area available for OHV recreation. Efforts to increase these types of recreational opportunities have generally become more focused at the local level, such as with the Los Angeles County Parks and Recreation Department, Planning Division, rather than administered directly by the OHMVR Division.

The facilitation process, which the Department has undertaken is designed to build consensus on basic parameters and criteria for future potential OHV park characteristics, programming, operations, and locations. By involving stakeholders and community members in the planning phase, before identifying actual sites, we will establish a collective framework for future OHV park studies.

EDAW Inc, a consulting firm with OHV planning and facilitation expertise, will support the Department in this endeavor. An advisory committee comprised of the full spectrum of stakeholder interest will participate in the formulation of the siting criteria. Input from the general public will be collected during a series of public workshops, to be conducted in four different County locations. This process will be supported by a website, fact sheets, and media outreach. We will provide periodic updates to your Board, throughout the process.

The success of this project and future implementation of the OHV park siting criteria relies on support from your Board. One of many goals set for the Department of Parks and Recreation, is to increase park space and recreational choice, thus maintaining and enhancing the quality of life of park users. The outcome of this project will help to address the recreation needs of that significant segment of the County's population.

The Department's Planning Division staff is available to meet with your staff to hear your perspectives and provide additional information. Conducting these meetings before we initiate the advisory committee process would be most effective. If you have any questions or concern, please contact me at (213) 738-2951 or your staff may contact Larry Hensley, Chief of Planning at (213) 351-5098.

RG:LH:RE:tlis

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